

## 'National Security' Wiretaps

# Kissinger Report Rebutted

### Washington

Henry A. Kissinger's National Security Council office was directly responsible for ordering the FBI to end the 17 "national security" wiretaps on newsmen and officials that began in 1969, highly placed sources say.

The sources said that as late as February, 1971, when the last eight wiretaps were shut down, specific termination orders were telephoned to the FBI by General Alexander M. Haig Jr., the current White House chief of staff who was then a Kissinger deputy.

These new allegations, supported by officials closely involved in the wiretapping program, contradict Kissinger's testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last September in hearings on his nomination as secretary of state.

Kissinger told the senators that after May, 1970, he and Haig were in touch with the FBI only when the wiretaps produced a "particularly egregious" report.

He also told the senators that he never "explicitly" dealt with the question of

## Girl Hurt In Fire

A two-alarm fire in a Western Addition apartment yesterday sent a five-year-old girl to the hospital from smoke inhalation and caused more than \$20,000 in damage.

The child, Felicia Pope, of 701 Fell street, was in satisfactory condition in Mission General Hospital.

terminating the wiretaps.

"I assumed that a wiretap which proved unproductive was terminated," Kissinger testified.

The sources told the New York Times, however, that FBI records showed that Kissinger, through Haig, rebuffed at least two and possibly three bureau requests in mid-1969 that a wiretap on the home of Morton H. Halperin, then a Kissinger aide, be terminated because it was unproductive.

One memorandum quotes Haig as citing Kissinger by name in rejecting the bureau's pleas, which were made in June, a month after the wiretap was put in place and again in late summer.

Halperin, who later quit the National Security Council in protest over the Nixon administration's Vietnam policies, has since sued Kissinger and others on the ground that they violated his constitutional rights.

A high-level White House source acknowledged that Haig had served as a liaison man between Kissinger and the FBI on the wiretaps, but added, "he only did what he was told to." At the time the wiretapping began, in May, 1969, Haig was a colonel assigned to the Security Council.

Kissinger has repeatedly denied that he "directly" in-

itiated the wiretapping program and insisted that the idea to do so originated at a White House meeting he attended on May 9, 1969, with President Nixon and J. Edgar Hoover, the late FBI director.

The Time's sources, in a series of recent interviews, made the following points:

- There was no such White House meeting on May 9, 1969. FBI files show that Hoover dictated a memorandum on that day describing a telephone conversation with Kissinger who was then with the President at Key Biscayne, Fla., about information leaks to newspapers and their peril to foreign policy.

- The FBI files also cast strong doubt on Kissinger's assertion to the Senate panel that "my role was limited to supplying names" of those with special clearances who had access to leaked material. Three of the first four officials who were wiretapped by Kissinger's office in May, 1969, did not have access to the secrets leaked.

Informed of these assertions, the high-ranking White House official said: "Those wiretaps were justified because of extremely serious national security leaks. Anyone who claims otherwise is not filled in."

One closely involved official declared in a telephone interview that Haig had telephoned the FBI and said that "the wiretaps had served their purpose" and should be shut down.

"Haig always made it clear that he was a messenger," the source said, "that he was relaying instructions."

The official also said it was Haig who relayed most, if not all, of the White House requests for wiretaps. Haig made clear that the requests originated with Kissinger, the official added.

"If Henry didn't approve of all this, he could have said do," the official declared.

The wiretapping was first

discussed, sources said, on May 9, 1969, the day on which the Times published a dispatch by William Beecher, then its Pentagon corre-

San Francisco Chronicle 7  
★ ★ Mon., June 10, 1974

spondent, about the secret B-52 bombing of Cambodia.

Kissinger, then reportedly in Key Biscayne, Fla., discussed the article with Hoover by telephone, according to a memorandum dictated by the late FBI director.

New York Times